

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1515

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, BF, US
SUBJ: AAF GRAND BAHAMA

REF: (A) NASSAU 0914 (B) STATE 111787

1. MR. MAURICE E. MOORE, MP, AFTER RECEIVING LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED REFTELS, REQUESTED AND WAS GRANTED A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE LETTER.

2. MR. MOORE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT USG RESPONSE, STATING THAT HE HAD TAKEN THE TROUBLE PRIOR TO WRITING THE AMBASSADOR TO CHECK OUT THE FEASIBILITY OF THE AAF SUPPLYING POWER TO THE NEARBY SETTLEMENTS, AND HAD BEEN TOLD BY "THE ENGINEERS" THAT THE PROJECT WAS FEASIBLE. HE HAD, HOWEVER, AN ALTERNATE PROPOSAL. MR. MOORE UNDERSTANDS THAT USAF HAS FOUR OR FIVE MILES OF HIGH TENSION WIRING IN THE AREA THAT IS NOT IN USE. THIS WIRING IS ALLEGED TO BE ONLY ABOUT 1000 FEET FROM EXISTING BAHAMAS ELECTRICITY CORPS WIRING ASSOCIATED WITH THE BURMA OIL TERMINAL. MR. MOORE STATED THAT IF THIS UNUSED WIRING COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE, THEN THE SETTLEMENTS COULD HAVE POWER FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES.

3. MR. MOORE THEN REITERATED HIS REQUEST FOR SOME
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SORT OF ONE TIME GRATUITY PAYMENT TO BAHAMIAN WORKERS WHO RETIRE SATISFACTORILY AFTER MANY YEARS EMPLOYMENT AT THE AAF. IT WAS HIS VIEW THAT THIS WAS COMMON PRACTICE IN THE AREA SINCE NATIONAL INSURANCE PROVIDES NO RETIREMENT PAYMENTS.

4. FINALLY, MR. MOORE RESTATED THE NEED FOR SOME

ROAD REPAIRS IN THE AREA OF AAF GRAND BAHAMA,
STATING THAT THEY NEEDED HELP NOW MORE THAN BEFORE,
SINCE IT WAS MORE DIFFICULT SINCE INDEPENDENCE TO
GET GOVERNMENT TO TAKE CARE OF SUCH ODDS AND ENDS.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT EXPLORE WITH DOD THE FEASIBILITY, IF USAF HAS UNUSED POWERLINES AT GRAND BAHAMA, OF ALLOWING GCOB USE AS PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED, AS WELL AS FEASIBILITY OF CONTRACTOR PAYMENT OF ONE TIME GRATUITIES TO RETIRING BAHAMIANS.

7. AS FOR ROAD REPAIRS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE RETAIN THE POSITION THAT USG AND ITS FACILITIES CANNOT ASSUME THE POSITION OF A CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE AGENT FOR OUT ISLAND ROADWAYS FOR GCOB, EXCEPT FOR THOSE PORTIONS OF ROADWAYS IN USE BY THE US FACILITIES. FYI. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS GCOB HAS ADVERTISED FOR TENDERS FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT FOR THE OUT ISLANDS. END FYI.
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